

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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May 3, 2005

In Reply Refer To: STB050214K

Victoria Rutson, Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW,
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Section 106 Consultation for Docket No. AB847X Sierra Northern Railway – Abandonment
Exemption – in Yolo County, CA.

Dear Ms. Rutson:

Thank you for informing me of the proposed undertaking referenced above. Pursuant to its responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800, the Surface Transportation Board (STB) has determined that the proposed action is a federal undertaking that may have the potential to cause effects on historic properties and is initiating consultation with me in order to seek my input on the proposed project based on the Historic Report that was submitted by the applicants.

I have reviewed the *Archaeological Survey Report Review of Sierra Railroad Acquisition, City of West Sacramento, Yolo County* (Jensen Feb., 2004) provided by the City of West Sacramento on behalf of the STB and provide the comment below.

I do not believe that the STB's level of effort to identify historic properties in the undertaking's area of potential effects meets the standards set forth at 36 CFR § 800.4(b)(1). The above report appears to have been made directly for the purposes of CEQA only and merely states that the subject properties are also not eligible for the NRHP without reference to the National Register criteria set forth at 36 CFR § 60.4. I believe that the agency's effort to identify historic properties would more closely comport with those standards if the agency were to

1) Provide documentation on the STB's determinations on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility of the following historic properties identified within the APE:

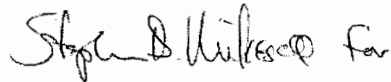
- a) CA-YOL-132, which is noted as having been previously recommended as "significant because of the presence of buried cultural material important to local and regional research," but was only evaluated under CEQA criteria.
- b) Three earthen ditches (sites LNWI-C-2, -C-6, and -C-8) which are only noted as having been previously evaluated under CEQA significance criteria.
- c) Four residential structures/complexes, since the report states that these properties were less than 50 years old in 2003, (it is unclear whether the properties have attained the requisite age, their proximity to the project area, and what, if any, relationship they have with the railroad).

Ms. Rutson
May 3, 2005
Page 2

2) Please be advised that the STB may have additional responsibilities under 36 CFR Part 800 if there are unanticipated discoveries or changes in project design that could adversely affect historic properties.

I will be able to continue our consultation on your efforts to take into account the effects of the undertaking on historic properties upon my receipt of the additional information above. Please do not hesitate to contact Kelly Hobbs, Associate Environmental Planner at (916) 653-8936 or at khobb@ohp.parks.ca.gov, if you have any questions or need clarification of any of my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Milford Wayne Donaldson".

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer